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09/858,438	05/16/2001	Donald R. Ryan	D/A0477Q2	2481

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EXAMINER
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WASSUM, LUKE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/858,438

Applicant(s)

RYAN ET AL.

Examiner

Luke S. Wassum

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 21 June 2004 has been entered.

### ***Petition to Revive Under 37 CFR 1.137(b)***

2. A petition to revive this abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was filed by the Applicants on 18 November 2004. The petition was granted on 22 February 2005. Accordingly, the following Office action is submitted to resume prosecution of the application.

### ***Response to Preliminary Amendment***

3. The Applicants' preliminary amendment, filed 21 June 2004, has been received, entered into the record, and considered.

4. As a result of the amendment, claims 1, 27 and 28 have been amended. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the application.

### ***Priority***

5. The Applicants' claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), based upon provisional application number 60/204,720, filed 16 May 2000, is acknowledged.

***Claim Objections***

6. Claim 30 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Parent claim 28 is a system claim, while dependent claim 30 is a method claim. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

9. Regarding claim 28, this claim recites only a database comprising specific types of data. Statements of intended use are not patentably limiting. As such, the claim is non-statutory for at least the reason that it is not tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable. Furthermore, a collection of data, *per se*, is not an actual data structure, instead being non-functional descriptive material.

10. Claims 29 and 30, fully incorporating the deficiencies of their parent claim 28, are also rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Marlin et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,778,377).

13. Regarding claim 1, **Marlin et al.** teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database as claimed, comprising:

- a) storing in the database a list of capability and permanent constraint attributes for each available finishing device (see finishing object 40 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 21-27);
- b) receiving finishing job description information, including descriptions of job segments of the job that conform to the capability and constraint attributes of the finishing device (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18); and
- c) storing the finishing job description information in the database (see object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

14. Regarding claim 27, **Marlin et al.** teaches a method for a database system, comprising:
  - a) storing capability and permanent constraint attributes in the database (see finishing object 40 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 21-27);
  - b) communicating the capability and constraint attributes to the production monitor controller (see disclosure of the interface to the Management Information Format (MIF) file, col. 5, lines 19-31; see also disclosure of the agent programs, and particularly the management reports agent, col. 11, lines 31-60);
  - c) creating a job model location within the database for storing a description of the job and its components, including job segments (see object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18);
  - d) receiving from the production monitor controller information that describes the job and its components, including descriptions of job segments of the job that conform to the capability and constraint attributes of the finishing device (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18); and
  - e) storing the description of the job and its components, including job segments, in the job model location within the database (see object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).
15. Regarding claim 28, **Marlin et al.** teaches a virtual finishing job ticket database comprising:

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- a) job construction data (see object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18);
- b) control data for automated instruction of at least one finishing device (see process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 15-18); and
- c) integrity data used after performance of the finishing device in order to confirm that the job was finished in accordance with the job construction data (see disclosure that prior art systems included an error recovery operation such that if a job is completed without incident, that can be recorded, col. 3, lines 43-45).

16. Regarding claim 29, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the job construction data, control data and integrity data are stored in hierarchically arranged nodes of information (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

17. Regarding claim 30, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a virtual finishing job ticket database further comprising retrieving from the database an entire virtual finishing job ticket from information provided by a single job segment identifier (see disclosure of the MIF meta-data tree, defining a product object, analogous to the claimed entire virtual finishing job ticket, Figure 10B; see also in cited prior art document "Large Mailing Operations Standards Specification, Version 1.0", published 31 October 1994, incorporated by reference by the **Marlin et al.** patent at col. 5, lines 42-46, the fact that Mail Job Objects, and specifically Print Job Entries, each contain a Product Name object and a Product Instance Qualifier object, the combination of which is necessary to insure

unique key access to table entries in the Product Object table at page 37, thus providing the claimed functionality).

18. Regarding claim 2, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving job description information comprises receiving a description of finishing operations for a job comprising printed sheet workpieces (see col. 4, lines 16-38, particularly lines 21-24; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

19. Regarding claim 3, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving finishing job description information comprises receiving such information from a production monitor controller (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

20. Regarding claim 4, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving reference pointers to locations where some specific job description information is stored (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).



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21. Regarding claim 5, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database further comprising arranging finishing job description information in a hierarchical manner (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).
22. Regarding claim 6, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of arranging further comprises arranging in a hierarchical tree structure (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).
23. Regarding claim 7, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of arranging in a hierarchical manner further comprises including, within at least one node at each level within the hierarchy of nodes, reference pointers to at least one node at a different level in the hierarchy such that all nodes of a job are referenced by at least one other node within the hierarchy arrangement of nodes (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).
24. Regarding claim 8, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of arranging further comprises arranging a top level node comprising job identification data (see disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).
25. Regarding claim 9, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of arranging a top level node further comprises including within the top level node reference pointers to at least one node at a hierarchical level below the top level (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

26. Regarding claim 10, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database, further comprising including at least one node within the hierarchy of nodes in which one of a pre-designated list of document forms is identified as applying to a document to be finished during the finishing job (see disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also disclosure of the object class, mail job object class, process object class and finishing object class, col. 11, lines 5-27; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

27. Regarding claim 11, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database, further comprising using a reference pointer within at least one node to a list of attributes of the identified document form, which list is stored outside of the node itself (see Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26; see also disclosure of the object class, mail job object class, process object class and finishing object class, col. 11, lines 5-27).

28. Regarding claim 12, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving from the production monitor controller job model information comprising information associated with possible threads for production of the finishing job (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and particularly the process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

29. Regarding claim 13, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving job model information further comprises receiving

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build sequence information for production of the finishing job (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and particularly the process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

30. Regarding claim 14, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving build sequence information includes receiving information for programming operation of at least one finishing device to be used during the finishing job (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and particularly the process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

31. Regarding claim 15, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of storing further comprises storing information for different job segments in different nodes within a hierarchy of nodes (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18; see also disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

32. Regarding claim 16, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of storing further comprises storing information in a plurality of nodes at the same level within a hierarchy of nodes (see disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

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33. Regarding claim 17, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving information associated with job segments produced by different production equipment and wherein the step of storing further comprises storing information describing such different job segments in different nodes of the virtual finishing job ticket database (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18; see also disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

34. Regarding claim 18, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database further comprising creating an information node within the virtual finishing job ticket database wherein descriptive information of a job segment is stored, such as job segment comprising a combination of a plurality of job segments produced by different production equipment (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18; see also disclosure that the concept of components includes mail jobs, col. 12, lines 28-31; see also col. 13, lines 9-18; see also Figure 10B; see also col. 17, lines 17-26).

35. Regarding claim 19, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving the finishing job description information from a production monitor controller (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

36. Regarding claim 20, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database further comprising providing access to the stored finishing job description information to a finishing module controller (see col. 5, lines 7-32).

37. Regarding claim 21, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database further comprising associating the stored finishing job description information regarding at least one job segment with a job segment identifier code such that such stored information can be accessed through use of the job segment identifier code (see col. 12, lines 46-59; see also col. 13, lines 9-18).

38. Regarding claim 22, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving a digital copy of a virtual finishing job ticket (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

39. Regarding claim 23, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of storing capability and constraint attributes comprises storing capability and constraint attributes for all finishing devices usable for the finishing job (see disclosure of the finishing object, col. 11, lines 21-27; see also col. 13, lines 9-30).

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40. Regarding claim 24, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the availability of a finishing device is one of the attributes stored in the virtual finishing job ticket database (see col. 11, lines 40-60).

41. Regarding claim 25, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving data for controlling at least one finishing device (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18).

42. Regarding claim 26, **Marlin et al.** additionally teaches a method for a virtual finishing job ticket database wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving integrity data used after performance of the finishing device in order to confirm that the job was finished in accordance with the job description data (see col. 4, lines 16-38; see also object class 35, mail job object 36, mail piece object 37 and process object 38 in Figure 7; see also col. 11, lines 1-18; see also disclosure that prior art systems included an error recovery operation such that if a job is completed without incident, that can be recorded, col. 3, lines 43-45).

### ***Response to Arguments***

43. Applicant's arguments filed 21 June 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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44. Regarding the Applicants' argument that the incorporation of the new limitation that the job segments conform to the capability and constraint attributes of the finishing device, the examiner respectfully responds that such a limitation is inherent in the **Marlin et al.** reference, if it is to function properly. The only way that the **Marlin et al.** reference would not anticipate this limitation would be if every job segment processed by the system *failed* to conform to the capabilities and constraints of the finishing device, an eventuality that would render the system non-functional.

45. Regarding the Applicants' argument that the prior art fails to link the terms or concepts to the concept of dividing a job into portions according to the capabilities and constraints of finishing equipment, the examiner respectfully responds that the claims fail to encompass this concept as well. All that is claimed is that the job segments conform to the capabilities and constraints of the finishing equipment, but not the process of dividing jobs into job segments based on these criteria.

The examiner also notes that prior art finishing systems would have necessarily processed job segments that conformed to the capabilities and constraints of the finishing devices, else they would not have been functional finishing systems. If these systems were constantly processing job segments that failed to conform to the capabilities and constraints of the finishing system, they would have never worked at all.

46. Regarding the Applicants' argument that the present invention is focused on automating the set-up and process flow decision making process, the examiner points out that it is a well settled rule that automating a known manual process would be obvious to an ordinary artisan in order to make the performance of the process less labor intensive and faster. See *In re Venner et al.* (CCPA) 120 USPQ 192.

47. Regarding the Applicants' argument that the references fail to teach a hierarchical database, the examiner respectfully refers the Applicants' attention to Figure 10B of the **Marlin et al.** reference, as cited in the rejection of record, which clearly displays job ticket data (as embodied by the MIF database) organized hierarchically.

While the Applicants argue that this arrangement is horizontal because "each component is pulled sequentially of the others in an iterative process rather than being pulled sequentially", the examiner respectfully submits that the claim language cites that the data is "stored in hierarchically arranged nodes of information", a limitation referring to how the data is stored. The process by which data is *retrieved* from said database has no bearing upon the issue of whether it is *stored* in a hierarchical arrangement.

### ***Conclusion***

48. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Ortiz et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,095,369) teaches a method for improved job stream printing in an electronic printer with various finishing functions.

**Prokop et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,170,340) teaches a state controller for an electronic reprographic system for controlling system operations when processing requests in which the system has a plurality of hardware and software system components providing discrete services.

**Gombault et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,283,752) teaches a method of preparing an item to be mailed using a printer in which a main document is printed and a line of mail preparation stations comprising an inserter station.



**Farrell et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,461,469) teaches a printing system having a finishing apparatus with adjustable finishing components.

**Salgado** (U.S. Patent 5,579,087) teaches a technique of constructing a multi-segment print job from multiple local and remote sources on a network using a network interface to identify print job segments and location of segments on the network.

**Cordery et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,628,249) teaches a method for producing mail pieces, including a printer for documents, a printer for envelopes, and a mail finishing unit for inserting the documents into the envelope to form a mail piece.

**Hohensee et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,727,220) teaches a method for presenting a document at a presentation device utilizing a presentation data stream having a continuous ordered stream of uniquely identified data objects and associated elements which specify format and presentation parameters for each of the data objects.

**Hidding et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,338,076) teaches a method of preparing a document involving the use of finishing instructions.

**Allen et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,549,299) teaches a document printing and finishing system that includes a computer and a standalone finishing machine.

**Igoe et al.** (U.S. Patent 6,833,925) teaches an image reproduction system which enables an operator to switch between different sets of finishing instructions by switching a shadow job ticket between an active state and an inactive state.

**Farrell** (U.S. Patent 6,873,426) teaches a printing system that alternately provides both literal finishing and abstract finishing to a print job.

**Hohensee et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0234954) teaches a system for communicating commands and data to a printer and pre- and post-processors through a link using different protocols.

**Kohler et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0160641) teaches a system for determining layout of print data printed by a printer onto a recording medium in which the recording medium is processed by a target device different from the printer.

**Van der Meer et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0168125) teaches a system for generating and finishing documents.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0030578) teaches a method of performing automated packaging and managing workflow in a commercial printing environment.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0033589) teaches a method of performing automated shipping and managing workflow in a commercial printing environment.

**Wiechers et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0034022) teaches a system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment with pre-submittal high performance preflight check.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0034030) teaches a system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment with a high performance preflight check at the print service provider location.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043842) teaches a system for managing a design-to-pack high performance workflow for a commercial printing environment.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043843) teaches a method of performing automated finishing and managing workflow in a commercial printing environment.

**Wiechers et al.** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043844) teaches a system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment with pre-submittal high performance automated remote proofing.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043845) teaches a system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment with high performance prepress rework at print service provider location.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043846) teaches a design-to-pack enabled packaging device in a commercial printing environment and managing workflow for use with same.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043847) teaches a high performance file encapsulation and submittal in a commercial printing environment.

**Wiechers** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0043848) teaches a system for managing a design-to-press high performance workflow for a commercial printing environment.

**Schmitz** (International Patent Publication WO 97/28972) teaches a printing and post-processing system providing a compact integration unit for commanding each component of the system for selective and controllable operations.

**Hidding et al.** (European Patent Publication EP 0-851,365 A1) teaches a method of preparing a document through the use of digital document data and finishing instructions.

**Romeika et al.** (European Patent Publication EP 1-096,781 A2) teaches a method for finishing a document.

**Daun et al.** ("Specification of the CIP3™ Print Production Format") teaches the CIP3 Print Production Format.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke S. Wassum whose telephone number is 571-272-4119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

In addition, INFORMAL or DRAFT communications may be faxed directly to the examiner at 571-273-4119.

Customer Service for Tech Center 2100 can be reached during regular business hours at (571) 272-2100, or fax (571) 273-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Luke S. Wassum  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2167

lsw  
25 July 2005